

INC.

every time I see the guy I think  
of a politician giving a speech  
from a caboose, maybe the  
old Wabash Cannonball  
something to give the  
authentic touch

always an air of baby kissing  
& cigar smoke he says  
he has been in the same room  
with this one & that one  
knows all the really big boys  
hangs out in north beach  
of course

better suited to be a barker  
for a topless joint  
he goes on & on about his  
little magazine, his latest  
projects

& no matter what he says  
it feels like he's trying  
to sell me a used car

puts inc. in back of his  
little magazine, enables  
him to go after the big money  
drops his first name  
uses initials  
if the inc. don't get em  
the initials will

name in the paper last week  
a big grant

figures  
he's got what it takes  
to make money  
from poetry.

FORT JACKSON, 1966

so much is said  
in the frantic dance  
of the young recruit's  
legs

he was tap dancing  
he was  
dancing in air  
his legs & feet just  
spinning & jerking  
trying to keep on top  
of the wooden crate  
he'd climbed up on

some said queer  
some said peace creep  
& some said crazy

the rope held he'd  
made a good strong  
knot, knew what he  
was doing

till he tried to kick  
the crate from under  
him  
changed his mind  
at the last second  
& started in with his  
little tap dance.